n° 2

The 4th and 5th

~~The~~ last question to be asked under this head is, how far should Nature be trusted in the cure of diseases? This is an important question. Whole volumes have been written in favor of what have been called the "vires naturæ medicatrices", or the healing powers of Nature, and physicians have received the name of her servants, that is, persons whose only business is to watch and support her operations in curing diseases. ~~Lum~~ This Jr Illiquente has been ascribed to ~~Nature~~ this principle by Dr Stahl under the name of "anima medica." and honors little short of divine have been paid to it by a certain class of physicians. Cicero remarks that there never was an emon

so great or absurd that was not believed by some philosopher". To this remark I will add - there never was an error so palpable as the one I have mentioned, so generally believed: It began with Hippocrates, - it pervades all the writings of all the Roman physicians. The works of Sydenham are tinctured with it, and there is scarcely a medical book in any modern language that does not contain more or less of it. My opinions of the operations of nature in diseases have not been adopted hastily. You will find them in an annotation contained in the 1st Volume of my medical inquiries, upon the diseases ~~[illegible]~~ of

the Indians delivered before the American Philosophical Society in the year 1772. I shall read the passage to ~~you~~ which I refer, from which you will see that the seeds of the principles of medicine I am now teaching were sown in my at ~~many~~ an early period of my medical mind ~~many years ago~~.

Life ~~Red~~ from p: 35" - to 38".

~~Though these~~ These opinions ~~may appear~~ at their ~~I am not singular in maintain~~ delivery ~~to~~ were considered as the effusions of the heated imagination of a young physician, - but the lapse of near forty years has produced no change in them; on the contrary it has confirmed & established them,

Sir John Pringle in describing a fever which prevailed in the British Army writes as follows "In general the fever was most frequent among the poor who lay upon ground floors, and wanted medicines, and in whom nature was either too weak to make ~~no~~ cures, or but slow and imperfect ones".

in my mind. Since that time I have had the pleasure of finding my opinions supported by several respectable physi=cians. Dr Willis in speaking of the plague says "The plague has this peculiarity in it, that the Cure should not be left to nature, but we must fight against it always with remedies taken from Art!" Dr Moseley in speaking of Nature has the following words "whatever may be the necessity of Art will in the works of nature, to remove another, or the Utility of such remedies as fevers of which people die, I am of opinion that dis=eases should seldom be left to nature, & were I not confirmed in this opinion by any

For my part adds the Doctor, I have no Opinion of nature as a medical despot, nor of obsequious physicians as her minis=-ters, which may be thought heresy in the temple in which the high priest himself says "nature cures diseases".

my own practice in the Dysentery, & should be inclined to do it from the success of Sydenham, who took some diseases out of her hands when her methods were uncertain, and gave them a speedy termination? – Yes – Doctor Mosley has reasoned ~~for~~ correctly from the example of Dr Sydenham who not only took the ~~cure~~ cure of the plague out of the hands of nature, but of all other violent diseases. It is true he advocates the healing powers of nature in many parts of his works, but his practice nearly in all diseases refutes his principles upon this subject. Thus we find men professing a belief in the most absurd notions in

Religion, and yet conforming to the precepts of the purest morality. Dr Moseley has ~~acted~~ further acted independently in rebelling against the authority of Hippocrates to whom we are indebted for the long & universal empire which nature has held in the Schools of medicine. Read his histories of Cases. In ~~Most of them terminate fatally~~ Diseases which might have been cured by a single bleeding, or purge, or a few doses of Bark are left to nature. His patients every kind of morbid distress. ~~suffer from fever and bowel disease~~ ~~finally die covered with blood~~ from pus from Haemorrhages, or with Abscesses. During the whole ~~of this~~ progress of ~~these~~ ~~morbid~~ their ~~and mortal~~ diseases, what is ~~the~~ his conduct ~~of the great father of medicine~~? He

visits his patients every hour of the day,
— he pats nature upon the back — indul=
=ges ~~her~~ all her morbid appetites, and
inclinations — marks the approaches of
— the days on which hemorrhages & abscesses
death — records them with his pencil — pre=
=dicts the issue of the disease, and for
his correctness in both, obtains the name
of the great father of medicine.

But why do I mention any modern authorities
in favor of repudiating the powers of na=
=ture in the Cure of diseases? There is scare=
=ly any physician who does not do it, in
a degree, every day of his life. What Affinity
does bleeding in a pleurisy and opiates in a
Dysentery bear to the tendencies of nature?
and yet where is the physician who
does not use the lancet & Opium in
the Cure of those diseases? —

The great error of trusting the cure of diseases to nature seems to have arisen from contemplating her operations in two very different situations of health & sickness. In the former state of the system, she is active, regular, and equal to all her exigencies. ~~of the~~ But in sickness or disease, the reverse of this order, and regularity takes place. "While one part is prostrate - another overacts its part - There is no reciprocity in the different systems. The capacity of life ceases to pervade them equally. - All natural sympathies & associations are destroyed - even offspring that are contiguous to each other and most intimately related. The circulation of the blood is carried on by ~~mechanical~~ artificial means chiefly, and the ~~animal~~ matter of the body

V This is a view of the condition of the system under the direction of "disordered & debilitated nature" in most of diseases, but to show in a more striking light ~~how~~ from the importance in medicine, the delirium, and the frantic operations of nature, I shall mention the state of the body under her direction in a violent bilious fever. Behold her! thum=ping and oppressing the brain with too much blood, — inverting the natural order of the stomach and bowels, — rending and tearing the blood and blood vessels to pieces, weakening or annihilating the senses, ~~something~~ paining one part of the skin with ~~the painful degree of heat~~ of it, and another part ~~with the painful degree of~~ with cold at the same time — bathing the body with unprofitable sweats, and finally destroying life with a sudden and general convulsion. This

not only loses its animated, but its animalized qualities, and partakes of most of the properties of what is called dead matter." In short in all violent cases, nature is appalled, or like a Dream-ker man in a dark room rails to and fro without being able to discover either window or door, or if by accident, he reaches one of them, he stumbles against it with so much force, as to break both it, and his neck together.

The remarks that have been delivered upon the feebleness and obliquity of the operations of nature will receive fresh support when we take a view of the diseases of a part of the brute creation. Here we behold in many cases disease & death to be nearly synonimous. The bilious fever, worms, and even the Cutaneous so generally

gentlemen is no exaggerated picture. Be not alarmed at it. In thus tearing the fringe from the garment of our Science, ~~I hope~~ I shall not injure that garment, but hope to surrender it up to you in a greater and more durable form than that which it has received from the idolatry of our Ancestors in medicine.

A grade of force in the operations of nature in the diseases of both men & brutes which not only tends to health but produces it. ~~The~~ I shall call it the healing point or level of her operations. It is of the same grade as a remedy with ~~the~~ sleep which I said in our Physiology cures light indispositions only, but is positive or hurtful in violent diseases.

cured by medicine in the human species are generally fatal in domestic animals when left to the management of Nature. - Hence we read of whole flocks of them being swept away in the course of a few weeks by some of these diseases to the great distress of the husbandman in every part of the world. - ~~There is of otherwise a certain~~

I might here digress and show the effects of ~~trusting~~ to ~~wide~~ pernicious ~~influences~~ upon the mind, or upon the body, or upon the operations of Nature ~~upon~~ morals ~~Appetites~~ as well as in medicine. ~~Folly and Vice of mankind are the fruits of following Nature~~ This

We all being into the World with us what Rousseau calls "moral instinct", or what has since been called a moral faculty. This innate capacity for a while ~~in~~ serves the same purpose as our instinctive appetites

for food. But its influence is short, and very much limited; ~~and unless followed and aided by Reason and Revelation is too feeble to conduct us~~ It serves to direct the mind in its pursuit of moral happiness only in its infant & healthy state. — For the moral diseases of the mind which break forth in youth and manhood, it can afford no remedy. Reason and Revelation alone are the ~~medicines~~ remedies necessary for this purpose. ~~They are the same to the minds of the mind, that evacuating and tonic medicines are to the body.~~ For support of the truth of this remark, look at the moral character of the Indians of our country among whom it is considered as wrong to restrain ~~or punish~~ the evil propensities, or to punish

the vices of their children, lest they should weaken their courage, and render them less fit for the ~~crime~~ cruelties & other crimes of war. Look further at ~~the~~ ~~moral character~~ ~~conduct of~~ those ~~child~~ persons in civilized society who have been left by their parents to the solitary influence of this ~~natural~~ moral instinct. You will ~~Do you wish to know when to~~ find them in ~~fighting~~ the jails, the navies and the armies of all the nations in the world. I grant these are some ~~instances~~ persons to be found in these crowds of miserable people who have had all the advantages of a moral & religious education, but these persons bear no greater proportion to the number who have ~~not had~~ followed their moral instincts, than the number of patients

V the analogy between the physical remedies for the diseases of our bodies, and the moral remedies for the diseases of our minds. The opera-
-tions of nature in curing diseases, accord with the feeble operations of moral instinct.
~~in overcoming the feeble wills and follies of insanity and childhood.~~ The remedies of abstinence ~~and~~ rest, & sweating, accord with the higher operations of reason; - while the ~~power-~~
~~rapid and harsh~~ energetic remedies of bleeding - vomits - purges - mercury - Bath - the
- Cyclentes and wine accord with the powerful de
exclusive influence of Religion in crising the diseases ~~opera~~
of the Mind.

who die of violent fevers in the hands of skilful physicians, bear to the number of those who are committed to the hands of nature. I grant further, that we sometimes see great perfection of moral character in persons who have had no other tutor than moral instinct to direct them, but the number of these persons is comparatively as small as the number of those who recover of violent fevers when left wholly in the hands of nature. It is agreeable thus to discover illustrate the opinions further from the effects of following her, not only in individuals, but in public bodies: all the calamities and distresses of war & bad government,

V In one place we behold debility, palsy, & mortification from the pressure of taxes, partially unjustly accumulated, — in another the wheels those taxes produc-ing plethora — hemorrhages and apoplexy.

V call them by what name you will — whether kings or usurpers — ~~tyra~~ heroes, or tyrants — they are all like the physicians of the Hippocratic school "nature's ministri", that is, the servants of nature.

I return from these analogies ~~illustrations~~ of ~~our body~~ the destructive effects of following nature in morals & government, to speak of them in medicine, and here I shall only add ~~one~~ as the natural consequence of

that have ever existed in our world, that the effects of the ~~to~~ rulers of nations, following nature. They are all in ~~the same~~ that state ~~of the~~ which I have said takes place in the ~~human body~~ ~~becoming~~ ~~under a violent~~ human body in violent Diseases. ~~Disease, which has been described~~. In my fancy of their minds is ~~in a~~ thrown out of its place, or unduly and obliquely excited. All their actions compared with a standard of moral order, are deranged. ~~or to~~ ~~use~~ the words of an inspired writer ~~other~~ ~~in speaking of the iniquities~~ the nations who ~~that~~ commit the crimes that have been mentioned are "Drunk", that is they act like drunken men under the influence of moral instinct ~~or~~ to return to ~~the operations~~ the subject of our lecture, they act like nations in a violent

V But there are no cases in which it is proper to follow nature, and there ~~[illegible]~~ no advantages to be derived from a knowledge of her operations ~~of nature~~ in diseases ~~[illegible]~~ in any cases? yes there are. I shall briefly mention them.

What has been said, my advice to you whenever you are called to persons ill with a violent disease, always to treat nature as you would a noisy Dog, or Cat in a sick room, — that is, turn her out of the room — and shut the door upon her. —

[Thus rejecting the operations of nature in violent diseases, let us not deprive ourselves of the benefit to be derived from observing her feeble - ill directed - or disproportioned efforts in medicine.] In the beginning, or during the prevalence of great and mortal epidemics, great advantages may be derived from attending to their symptoms in persons who are but slightly indisposed, and not so ill as to be confined by them. This will be best done by observing those symptoms, in Country people if the epidemic prevail in a City, and in persons in high life, if it prevail among the common people. For example,

if persons slightly indisposed have colica, or a sick stomach, attack the prevailing fever with vomits or purges — If they have spon=taneous hemorrhages from the nose, he=morrhoidal vessels, or Uterus, resort im=mediately to the lancet — If they have a tendency to spontaneous sweats — have re=course to sudorific medicines, — If they have slight coughs suspect the lungs to be deeply affected — if they complain of head ache — suspect the brain to the seat of arterial determination and act accordingly in both cases. If persons slightly indisposed are affected with boils, or eruptions upon the skin, fly to applications which produce artificial diseases upon those parts, and lastly if such persons complain of sore throat, & hawk & spit —

more than usual, pour in mercury as soon as possible to ~~do~~ expel the disease by a salivation. It was in this way Dr Sydenham met the fever of 1670 & 1671 ~~This was first~~ & remarkably of dysenteries prevailed at this time. The hypothesis ~~before him~~ proved very justly that ~~the prostration of the~~ nature was ~~this~~ disposed to ~~the bottom disease proved that to~~ relieve herself by the discharge from the bowels. He adopted the use of purges in this fever & thus cured it. But further - in addition to the aids to be drawn from observing the mild forms of an epidemic fever in persons slightly indisposed, an advantage may sometimes be derived from extending our views further, and examining whether the same epidemic prevails among any of the domestic animals of the country. If it do, inquire into its principal seat, and determinations.

By means of the light though feeble, which may be thus obtained from watching the operations of nature, we may be led to the use of remedies which may vanquish an epidemic in its worst and most dangerous forms. The same remarks apply to individuals. The tendencies of acute & chronic diseases. The tendencies of nature should be observed, and her efforts assisted by medicines when they are too feeble to cure them. ~~In~~ Short-nature may be compared to a post upon a high road which often points out the way we should go, without moving ~~along~~ to accompany us upon our journey. They apply likewise to the diseases of different ages. In infancy & childhood, the inclines to throw plethora and offensive humors behind the ears; ~~[illegible]~~ if prop[illegible] should the fail of doing so, to throw

them upon the brain; let us divert them to
nature's outlet behind the ears. In youth, she
inclines to throw her redundant blood upon the
lungs. Here let us divert it to the internal
part of the breast by cups & blisters — and by
stimulating applications to the arm pits.
In old age she inclines to throw discases upon
the bowels, and lower extremities — here let
us assist her by purges, and stimulating
applications to the ~~abdomen~~ feet. ~~In this~~ By these
~~approaching to~~ ~~flatter~~ seconding the ~~the~~ tendencies of na-
-ture ~~to~~ the more better, than by opposing
her by a counter current of revulsive
~~many~~ especially when they are of a mild nature.
remedies. — It is remarkable that something
analagous to the changes I have mentioned
in the different periods of life, takes place in
pregnancy. In its first stage the fluids are

V nature in all these cases resembles in a certain degree a post upon a high road which points to the way we ~~to~~ wish to go, without moving to accompany us upon our journeys. —

Thos Jefferson

determined to the stomach & head, — in the second to the breast and bowels — and in its last, when the system partakes most of weakness, to the lower extremities in which they discover their effects by pain and Edematous swellings.

2. In observing a disposition in nature to throw off a mild disease by a single outlet, let us beware how we rely upon that single outlet in such diseases as are violent. It has been said, that by opening any other emunctory besides that to which nature has pointed, we thwart her salutary operations & thus prevent, or retard a cure. But this is not true, and is contradicted daily by the successful practice of physicians of every sect in medicine. — In a tendency to heat, in a phrensy, we bleed and purge without opening a salutary discharge by the pores. In a fever attended

V The predilection of Physicians to one
bullet for a Disease, or for ~~a uniform~~ one mode
of Depletion has arisen from their
ignorance of Depletion being a Unit. They
resemble in this ignorance the Servant
who upon hearing his master
of ~~a disease~~ complain that ~~he~~
he lost a portion of a ~~pipe~~ cask of wine
by a Spile which he discovered in the
lower part of the cask. "Old master said
he, Dont you see the wine has been
stolen from the ~~top~~ upper & not from the lower
part of the cask". ~~It~~ Do not suppose by
this remark that I consider it a matter
of indifference ~~from~~ to deplete from any
One emunctory. ~~Many~~ Some diseases yield
only to One Class of Depleting remedies.
Some to two or more, while some
require them all V=

with a diarrhoea, we accelerate the cure by emetics ~~&c &c~~ & purgatives sometimes, & sometimes by the loss of blood. By absurdly attempting to throw of the whole of a violent disease by a single outlet, we produce the same fatal consequences which sometimes occur from an affrighted congregation attempting to escape from a Church on fire by a single door, whereas by opening all the emunctories of the body to a violent dis=ease, we permit it to escape with the same ease and safety that 20,000 citizens were wont to retire from the numerous and independant doors of the Roman amphitheatre. V

5th From what has been said of the powers of nature in diseases, we shall be

able to answer the next question that occurs in order and that is how far the longings of sick people should be indulged from ~~abstinence~~ drinks — ~~drinks~~ aliments - air and exercise. If na=ture be in a state of Derangement in a violent Disease, ~~&~~ if the seats of thirst & hungers are liable to partake of the delirium of other ~~in common with other~~ ~~parts~~ parts of the body, the inclinations of nature alone should not governs us in complying with them. Many thousand sick people have been destroyed either without, or with the consent of a physician by this practice. I admit that now and then cures have been performed by yielding to the cravings of nature, but this has been only in those cases in which the article taken has accor=ded exactly with the state of the system. Thus

second grade of ~~[illegible]~~ disease it has been useful, but in the highest, and the lowest, it has frequently been hurtful. In every case therefore where nature sends forth her desires, for drinks, food, or exercise, we should comply with, or refuse them according to the state of the system at the time they are desired.

~~I shall now deliver a formula for the exhibition of medicines, but I shall first take notice that all~~

~~Having taken~~

In the cure of ~~all~~ diseases ~~these things~~ it will be necessary ~~for~~ a physician in ~~his~~ his prescriptions constantly to keep his eye upon ~~these~~ things viz: predisposition – the disease itself, and lastly its symptoms. ~~in all his prescriptions~~

It is the misfortune of medicine that they are often seperated, by which means much mis=chief is done ~~be~~ in the practice of physic ~~of~~ The

a Draught of cold taken in the intermediate grade of fever has ~~if~~ often induced a salutary sweat. Had the same Draught ~~if~~ been taken ~~two days forward or later~~ in a more excited, or a more debilitated state of the System, it would have done harm. In like manner a fleece of hair, or a leeftake has sometimes turned the Scale in favor of life in a low fever, but it has only been where the fever has descended to the lowest grade of typhus, and after all ~~the~~ the common medical stimulant had lost their effect. Had they been taken sooner, ~~Had it been taken sooner it~~ they would probably have destroyed life. ~~The rule then by which we should be governed should be in yielding to the indications~~ Again - we sometimes see persons cured by ~~a~~ indulging a desire for fresh air, by a ride, or a walk. In the

~~will illustrate what I mean by a few examples~~ thus by giving tonics medicines ~~for~~ in an inflam^d fever because the patient has labored under the nervous predisposition, we increase both the fever and its symptoms — again by ~~giving~~ Using depleting remedies in an inflam^d fever without a regard to the predisposition, or of its symptoms we often deplete too much or too little,

or we suffer the symptoms to destroy life + Lastly by prescribing for symptoms only without a regard to the predisposition or the disease itself, we suffer the patient to perish, while he expires from the relief we give to his symptoms that he is upon the eve=ry. Opiates to ease a pain in the side in the pleurisy have often had this effect. ~~Too~~ ~~acute~~ (a)

+ The cough in a pleurisy ~~and the~~ & the vomiting in the lungs in the yellow fever, ~~and~~ the pain in colic when not relieved, ~~by~~ often produce death by their reaction upon the ~~original~~ disease, or upon the whole system

(a) I shall now deliver a few rules for the exhibition of medicines; but I shall first take notice that all = p. 24

All medicines ~~[illegible]~~ ~~which~~ may be divided into the ~~include the only~~ following Classes. 1 such as are contrary to ~~the~~ our natural tastes and appetites, which are not easily changed by the powers of the system, and which induce weaker or stronger new actions either natural, or less morbid, and dangerous, in a diseased body. ~~by appearing~~ The offensive qualities which reside in this class of medicines seem to have been wisely & kindly implanted in them by the Author of Nature in order to prevent our using them in health as articles of diet, or condiments to our food, and thereby preventing their efficacy in sickness. They may all be consi-dered as quick or slow poisons of different grades from arsenic & opium down to nitre & camomile tea.

2 such as are natural & agreeable to the taste & appetite, but which act by destroying quick, or slow poisons commonly called acrimonies in the human body. These are oils, acids, chilling, and demulcent drinks. Alkalies which act in this way are an exception to the general nature of this division.

3 such as ~~act~~ are agreeable to the taste &

of them, ~~for the~~ He will therefore do
more ~~greater~~ Service to our Science who upon good grounds
destroys the credit of useless medicines, and than
thus expels them from the materia medica, ~~so~~
he will who discovers a new medicine.
Perhaps the Curtain has Dropped upon all
attempts to enlarge the bounds of medicine
~~by~~ in this way, and that all improvements
in the ~~and~~ materia medica will consist
hereafter in Discovering the Doses - prepa=

appetite, and act by lessening & increasing ~~and lessening~~ morbid and natural actions by their nutritious or sedative qualities. These are our common aliments and drinks. ~~of all~~

~~kinds~~

Such as act both agreeably & disagreeably upon the body in ~~increasing &~~ lessening & increasing its morbid & natural actions. These are warm & cool & cold air - cold & warm water - ~~warm & cold and~~ in - exercise & labor.

In the use of the medicines of the first class there has been the same hesitancy ~~that there~~ has been in other things. Our systems of nosology have added every result to this number by requiring a different medicine for every disease, and a variety of medicines for the same disease without a due regard to the different states of the system. The unity of disease has swept away many hundred articles of the materia medica from our shops. This number has been still further lessened by the new resources of medicine in diet - warm & cool air, cold water & exercise. But there is room for a still greater diminution

=rations, and precise times of exhibiting

the medicines that are now known & p. 25.

in the possession of ~~and~~ physicians. E

Why should we ~~or rather~~ prefer Simplicity in Religion,

poetry - in

in Architecture - and in Dress, and not prefer

it in medicine?] Our Sincere gentlemen

resembles Thompson's Description of his ~~the~~ Lovely Lavinia

~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~beauty~~. "It needs not the Aid

[or superfluous]

of foreign ornament, unadorned

"But is, ~~when~~ when ~~least adorned~~, adorned

the most. E]

for fresh air, by a ride or a walk. In the second grade of disease it has been useful, but in the highest and lowest, it has frequently been hurtful. In every case therefore where nature tends forth her desires for food or drinks - food or exercise, the state of the system, should governs ~~ourselves by the same~~ should comply with, or refuse them according to the state of the system at the time they are desired.

I shall now deliver a few rules for the exhibition of medicines, but I shall first take notice ~~and how that tepid~~ ~~I select out few medicines~~ by mentioning that the new resources of medicine are fresh air - cold & cold water - exercise - and diet. ~~Now specially and generally defined the bodies of the human bodies are in the in our hopes.~~

v a few ~~few~~ medicines selected in the manner I have mentioned, we shall become better acquainted with their virtues and doses. It was ~~wrongly~~ ~~was far~~ customary formerly to keep patients constantly under the use of two or three medicines and sometimes more at a time prepared in the form of Julips, pills, bolusses and ptisans. This should be avoided as much as possible. A painter once wrote upon a picture in which too many figures were crowded: "Figures to be let." ~~So~~ Upon a table in a sick room crowded with bottles, boxes, and gallypots it would be equally proper to write "medicines, and shops furniture to be sold here." — This practice originated in a desire to remove the different symptoms of a disease by

~~Let that~~ of the small number of medicines to which our ~~medi~~ materia medica has been reduced, let them in the place ~~be selected in the following manner. Let~~ consist of all those medicines which have been called heroic or energetic, ~~and~~ 2ly of an equal number of such of are of a more feeble nature descending gradually down to teas made of our common domestic herbs. ~~The whole number of medicines~~ and 3ly let there be there three or four of the same class so as to vary the variety of constitutions, and to admit of rotation when the system becomes ~~habituated~~ insensible from habit to any one of them. By confining ourselves to 2 medicines are given in a simple & a compound state. upon this subject there have been ~~two~~ opinions, the one is ~~that~~ medicines act best ~~in order~~ when given simply, the other is that they do most good when combined with each

different remedies, without recollecting that they all originated in one cause, and that by removing that cause, the symptoms would cease, with the exception of those few cases in which the palliatives of opium, and demulents are necessary. Medicines in the hands of different physicians may be compared to the Roman Alphabet, and Chinese Characters. The former by being com=bined in an immense variety of ways, are made to express all the words in our language, so the same medicines by being differently prepared, or ex=hibited at different times may serve to cure all the diseases that are subject to medicine, while the latter by requiring a specific character for every word, resembles the practice of prescribing a different medicine for every disease, and every symptom of a disease, and hence we find there is the same disproportion between the remedies of a physician who prescribes a different medicine for the name & symptoms of a disease, and a physician who

other. Both opinions are true. Many of them particularly Bark, Opium, Rhubarb, Jalap, Salts Castor Oil, Wine and Ammonia act powerfully when given without any mixture, but it is certain many other medicines are improved by being compounded. Dr Abercrombie cured several Cancers by a mixture of Corrosive Subli-mate and Hemlock which had resisted the Hemlock alone. ~~[illegible]~~ Opium when combined ~~the College of Edin~~ with an alkali has cured tetanus Dr Fletcher tells us after it has resisted the use of Opium in a simple state. While I was a Student in the College of Edin an Obstinate Lead Colic in the Infirmary of that city in which ~~[illegible]~~ Bark & Valerian in Su-=ffusion & rotation has been given without effect, was cured in a few Days by a mixture of both those medicines. In this Case a

principles for the Unity of Disease, and the state of the System that there is between the number of the Chinese Characters & the Roman alphabet. The former amount to 80,000, the latter to but four and twenty. return to p: 25.

medicine possessing different qualities from each of them in a separate state was probably formed, or perhaps we may account ~~consider~~ for the efficacy of the compounds that have been mentioned in another way. Recollect the instance I mentioned formerly of a lady who could hear conversation only when the was within the sound of a Drum. As the Drum has excited the ~~tympa~~ membrana tympani to the hearing point, so may not the corrosive sublimate, or the hemlock, in the cases related by Dr Kinside, and the Opium or Alkali in the case related by Dr Shutz, and the Bark or Valerian in the case which occurred in the ~~hospital~~ Edinr Infirmary, have excited the sensibility & irritability of the stomach in such a manner, as to dispose it to act under the impression of but one of the

two medicines that were taken. Take either of the two theories I have delivered you ~~two~~ please. Perhaps both of them may be true. It is certain Sugar & other sweet substances enable the stomach to retain medicines that would otherwise be rejected. The Sugar in this case acts upon the tongue ~~and~~ where it excites a pleasurable sensation, which predominates over the disagreeable impression of the medicine. I mentioned formerly that a weak pleasure overcomes in many instances a stronger pain - probably by the ~~sensibility~~ susceptibility of the system being so much worn down by pain as to feel in an instant the new impression of pleasure. Dr Clarke has illustrated the propriety of combining active, and nauseous medicines with Sugar, or other sweet, or mild substances

V when combined with a weak one — This ~~was~~ is noticed by Dr Sydenham. Perhaps this remark applies to all the active stimulating remedies. But to return

This opinion is founded upon certain ~~specific~~

VI ~~This and so do nearly every one that flate~~

medicines acting as I shall say hereafter ~~spec~~ specifically upon different systems,

to enable the stomach & system to bear them in the following words. "Some medicines require their correctives. They are not to be trusted alone. They are strangers & enemies to the body, and they require their guides and guards." — A strong purge operates more certainly and do ~~the~~ ~~more explosive~~ more swift in a ~~simple~~ ~~state~~ state, but the knowledge of their relations to each other can only be known by experience. Dr Hordyce says he has found several of the bitters to assist the stomach in retaining the Bark — that the Sulphate of Zinc added to the emetic qualities of Ipecacuana, that

a number of spices. There can be doubt but that some medicines ~~prompt~~ act more powerfully, in a compound, than

Capsicum & black pepper when mixed, excite neither the pain, nor burning in the stomach which each excites in its simple state — that Squills when combined with Gum Ammoniac are more effectual in the diseases of the lungs that Squills alone, & that Alum is a more powerful astringent when given with the powder of red Roses than when given by itself. Upon these assertions of Dr Lordyce I shall only remark that there is more fallacy in the ~~Observations~~ opinions of physicians upon the action of medicines than upon any other Branch of our Science. Preconceived hypothesis — prejudice — a disregard of the marvelous — to the different countries in which medicines are cultivated — to their ages, to the parts of them which are used as medicines, — to the forms, and modes of their preparation

to the stage of a disease in which they are exhibited - to the age & constitution of the patient who takes them, all conspire to lead to error in the history of the effects of medicines.

To those innocent sources of error in the character of medicines - there is one more, & that is a disregard to truth. It is the more common and the more to be lamented, as it is difficult, and frequently impossible to detect it. ~~nothing~~ The different & opposite accounts that are published of the effects of the same medicines prove the correctness of these remarks. ~~I shall barely mention~~ To illustrate them further, I shall barely mention the contrary opinions of Drs Lordyce & Dr Cullen of the effects of Tartarized Antimony, Ipecacuana & the mineral salts. Dr Cullen says they do most ~~good~~ service when they excite nausea. Dr Lordyce

denies this, and says they produce ~~violent~~ operations re=
=laxation of the Skin and the ~~greatest~~ most perspi=
=ration when they excite no sickness at stomach.
An hundred similar instances of contradictions
might be mentioned taken from the writings
of the most respectable physicians in Europe.
The inference from these remarks is, that
we should endeavour by taking all circum=
=stances into consideration to discover by
faithful observation what medicines are
improved by practice. A wide field is ope=
=ned for improving this part of therapeutics
since we have rejected empiricism ~~so~~ in
nosology. on the something,
medicine, and ~~can~~ learned to regulate our
prescriptions ~~of~~ by the existing varying
states of the system.

We have thus taken notice of the effects of
compound medicines. The transition is natural

from this subject to say a few words of com-
-pound Councils, that is of Consultations
in the treatment of Diseases. They are highly
useful. 1 because as "iron sharpeneth iron",
so one man's understanding sharpens another
in all the affairs of human life. 2 because
they beget confidence & hope. The physician
who is called into a consultation acts by his
presence with the force & effect of a multitude
and of a reinforcement to a party engaged in a battle.
upon the mind of a patient. 3 because they
~~pan~~ suppress that excess of solicitude which
sometimes embarrasses the judgment of a
solitary physician. 4 because they divide
responsibility, and thereby protect the profession
of medicine, and of individual physicians
in an unsuccessful issue of a disease. The cases
in which Consultations should be resorted to,

Cases in which the patient is a ~~near~~ near relation, or the friend of a physi-cian. The affection and solicitude for such patients weaken the judgement, and often by creating irresolution and timidity, and render the trial of a consultation of the interested physician indispensably necessary. —

are as follow. 1 in all Doubtful Cases.
2 in all Dangerous Cases — that are not
doubtful. 3 in all Edious Cases in which
Confidence is apt to languish in a single
physician. 4 in all desperate Cases. these
consultations satisfy the patient — his friends,
and the public. 5 In all Cases in which a
new and unpopular medicine is judged to be
necessary. ~~#~~ 6 in all Cases in which there is
a probability of an appeal being made to a
Court of justice such as in Diseases from Assaults — poisons
and Affections of the ~~brain~~ morbid mind. 7 In all V

In the Choice of a Consulting physician con=
=sent only to meeting him whose principles &
practice are nearly similar to your own. All
heterogeneous Consultations of physicians of
opposite principles and practice are like part=
=nerships in trade. Their Objects are money,

and not the life of a patient, & thousands have been sacrificed to them. The great & good Dr. Sydenham in the close of his life reproaches himself with having lost patients by yielding his judgement in consultations to physicians who pursued a mode of practice opposite to his own. If to yoke an ox & an ass in the same plough was deemed incongruous, and forbidden by the jewish law, how much more incongruous must it be Unite two physicians in a Consultation, Who attempt to cure diseases by medicines as unassociated to each other, & to the disease, as an Ox and an Ass? But further, two modes of practice may be proper if used by themselves, but which when combined, or pared down to meet the judgments of the two physicians who propose them,

(by which means they) either do harm, or leave a patient to perish by his disease:

The difference in the mode of preparing medicines has the same effect upon this operation that a difference in the mode of preparing aliments has upon their digestible & nutritious qualities. Opium will often lie upon the stomach when liquid Laudanum will not, & vice versa. An old & dry opium will do what has told us will lie upon the stomach when a fresh one will not. Bark is a different medicine in substance - decoction - and when it is fresh or has been kept some time tincture and extract & Dr Quarin says he distinguished waters in a dropsy by means of the extract of Squills, when the powder of that medicine made no impression upon the kidneys. But even the same medicine acts differently according as it is exhibited

in the form of powder or pills. This is the case particularly with Iron, & bitters of all kinds. They produce the most powerful effects when diffused. this the mouth, and pharynx in the former state. These facts should teach us not to lay aside a medicine which is indicated in a disease, ~~until we have~~ but which is refused by the stomach, Until we have tried it in all its different modes of preparation.

Medicines are sometimes rejected by the stomach from this having disagreed with it in a former disease, or from some dis: agreeable ~~associations of~~ associated ideas being ~~con~~ associated with them. In these cases, a patient should be kept ignorant of the name of his medicines. Opium has

often been retained in this way, & I have known an instance in which Calomel was well received by the stomach of a lady when disguised, who could not retain it a moment when she knew ~~the name of~~ what had been administered to her. There are other cases in which an advantage of another kind will arise from concealing the name of the medicine we give to our patients, and that is, it will increase our faith in it, ~~and~~ This will be the more necessary if the medicine be a simple and a common one, and the patient not sufficiently capable for his understanding. The influence of the principle of the faith in the inner mind ~~is very great~~ over the body is very great. The Scrophula has been cured by it by means of what is called the "Royal touch" ~~in~~ for the

V ~~Be~~ new medicine or article of diet should be given as seldom as possible in the morning. Should it disagree with a patient it will be less easy to obviate its bad effects during the night than in the day time.

When you are doing well, do not try to do better, — or in other words, when your patient is mending, make no change in his medicines, diet or manner of living in order to precipitate his cure. Remember the epitaph which a gentleman had composed for himself, "I was well. I wished to be better. I took physic — and I died."

~~Do~~ not leave off the use of

14th & 15th Centuries in England. Greatness owed
its success chiefly to it. There are again
persons of strong minds to whom not only
the names of the medicines we exhibit ought
be made known, but our whole plan
of cure. In these persons Reason becomes ~~cooperates~~
~~with faith~~ the foundation of faith, and both
concur to aid us in all our prescriptions.

V There are two Classes of medicines which
should be rarely prescribed, ~~as usually as possible~~. These
are medicines which shock the prejudices
and feelings of our patients, ~~by this~~ such as are and
very expensive. ~~medicines~~ To the former
Class belonged some years ago, the powder of
human Skulls, ~~of dogs dung~~ known by the
name of Cranium humanum, Dogs dung
known by the name of Album Graecum, lice,
- Lambs blood, - & Cows Urine, known by the

of a medicine which you believe from experience to be suited to a disease because it disagrees with a patient the first few times he takes it, or because he appears to be worse after it. Many medicines are like bleeding in this respect, they appear to do harm where they are doing good. Thus a milk ~~diet is~~ which is sometimes offensive to the stomach for weeks and months, ~~and~~ by ~~yet a~~ perseverance ~~in the diet of it~~ becomes not only agreeable, but frequently cures disease which yields to no other remedy. —

name of all flower waters. These have yielded in modern times to smoke - Castor - Chickens gizzards - Beef's gall and the Urine of the pole-cat. - Of these modern remedies I shall only say, that if they have done good, at any time, they owe either their efficacy to the honor they excite in the system, - or to qualities which are possessed in a higher degree by many less offensive vegetable & mineral substances. In favor of studying Oeconomy in our prescriptions, let us recollect that sickness frequently the means of carrying & collecting money, and that the efficacy of an expensive medicine in such circumstances may be lessened by the sedative effects of its high price. Sea voyages. long journies, distant mineral waters, and Butts of Port-wine and Ardent Spirits should not be mentioned to persons in indigent

circumstances. When prescribed, & not adopted from an inability to bear their expenses, the distress produced by that inability sometimes renders a disease fatal, that might have been cured by other remedies. Happily for sick people, those medicines which have the greatest number of cures performed in all Ages & Countries, are the cheapest. These are the lancet - abstinence, air, water, exercise and labor. Next to these are medicines of a moderate price; such as garlic, tar, Iron & mercury - and the mustard expensive medicines such as Bark, Rhubarb, Jalap & Spanish flies, the quantity required to cure a common acute disease, is seldom above the resources of a day laborer in all Countries.

A regard should be had to the neatness and cleanliness in the composition of medicines, & to taste and correctness in the directions which accompany

them. A bulb of a red or green, or any other offensive color – a label carelessly tied upon the neck of ~~the~~ a Vial – pills of an ~~[illegible]~~ unequal size, or that are amalgamated with each other – powders coarsely pulverized, or unequally divided – and directions written in a careless, or illegible hand, ~~with~~ or ~~in~~ in abbreviated words, – or with bad spelling, or without the name of the patient inscribed upon them, never fail to lessen the confidence of a patient in a physician, and to lessen the effects of his medicines upon a disease. Even the shop ~~the~~ in which a physician keeps his medicines should exhibit marks of neatness and order. I once heard a gentleman express a total want of confidence in a physician's judgment only because he went accidentally into his shop, and saw his counter covered with bottles without

They require in many instances their condiments as well as stimulants to make them lie easily upon the stomach, and even to exercise their efficacy.

Corks — and ~~his~~ Scales and weights scattered over every part of it. It inferred that the same want of order pervaded the physician's mind.

~~Medicines~~ The forms of medicines in common use are Julips — ~~Decoc~~ liquids intended to be given in drops, — pills — powders ~~&c~~ — ~~extracts~~ infusions — Decoctions Apozisms. Bolusses and Electuaries are nearly banished from the shops of the Apothecaries.

Pains should be taken to ~~make~~ upon the disagreeable taste of medicines ~~as agreeable as possible~~ provided it can be done, without impairing their virtues. Dr Stahl speaks highly of a Dr Shomer who got into business by rendering his medicines palatable to his patients. The same rule is more proper ~~should be~~ applied to the diet of sick people. It is a high act of kindness and humanity to study their appetites, to please

V "Optima medicina, aliquando nulla medicina". I know not who was the author of this Aphorism, but I am sure he deserves more credit for it, than are the discoverers of three fourths of all the Articles of the materia medica. It

~~V "Optima medicina, aliquando nulla medicina".~~ The painters say "manum de tabula" when a picture is finished. Nearly the same thing may sometimes be said to a physician in the treatment of diseases. "Manum E officina" — that is — "take away your hand from your drawers and bottles." The cases in which this rule is necessary are 1st where life is suspended by a single thread, and where the least addition to ~~[illegible]~~ or abstraction from the stimuli which support it may ~~cut~~ cut that thread. We sometimes ~~read~~ hear of patients recovering who have been given over by their physicians. It is because they have been left to the accidental ratio between the capacity of life & the ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ stimuli that were acting upon it.

by preparing ~~medicine and~~ food that will be agreeable to them. A pious lady in this city once said "I would rather make a Cup of Caudle to please the taste of a sick person, than discover a new planet." — Reflect the pleasure derived from the taste of ~~this~~ food thus prepared, is part of its remedy. There are ~~cases~~ diseases in which it will be useful to abstract all kinds of medicines. ~~This~~ 2dly ~~is manifest~~ when the disease is reduced down to be the level of the feeble operations of nature, in which case the most feeble medicine may thwart — or retard — or by accelerating the ~~or hasten death~~ ~~being over~~ actions of nature, produce a new disease. ~~and death~~ 3dly ~~It is company~~ when we wish to beget in our patient an exclusive reliance upon ~~pro~~ exercise — journies — Baths or mineral waters. — By abstracting medicines from them we "shut them up" as it were to the faithful and constant use of these efficient remedies.

2dly when we wish to see what ~~or effort~~ actions nature will ~~make~~ take on, or what efforts she will make to relieve herself by determining disease to a part of the body, in which we may most effectually ~~oppose~~ assist, or oppose her. By abstracting medicines we favour all counter currents to the operations nature, turn back to 3 = p 44]

[c Where there is danger of patients complaining from the want of medicines they should be deceived by bread pills]

A physician in this case should follow the advice an old Clergyman once gave to a young preacher that is "always to leave off when he had done", meaning thereby – when he had exhausted his subject. –

3 medicines should be withheld, or laid aside when we wish to keep in our patients an exclusive reliance upon exercise, journies, baths or mineral waters. By abstracting medicines from them we "shut them up" as it were to the faithful and constant use of those efficient remedies.

However ~~[illegible]~~ minute these directions may appear to be for ascertaining the time of laying the aside the use of medicines be agreed, ~~them~~ they are highly important, and that the success of your practice will ~~[illegible]~~ depend very much upon your attending to them.